



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



# **Scoping for Amendment 2 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP)**

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**Highly Migratory Species  
Management Division  
NMFS/NOAA**

**January/February 2007**



# Presentation Objectives

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- **The purpose of this presentation is to get your feedback on the issues and options for shark management measures in the upcoming amendment on sharks.**
- **This presentation will give you an overview of:**
  - The current status of large coastal and pelagic sharks
  - Outline comments NMFS has received to date
  - Outline the current options and issues identified for the upcoming amendment
- **Please send comments to the address, FAX number, or e-mail address listed at the end of this presentation.**

# Results from Latest Shark Stock Assessments

| Species       | Overfished                   | Overfishing |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| LCS complex   | Unknown                      | Unknown     |
| Sandbar       | Yes (rebuild in 70 yrs)      | Yes         |
| GOM Blacktip  | No                           | No          |
| Atl. Blacktip | Unknown                      | Unknown     |
| Dusky         | Yes (rebuild in 100-400 yrs) | Yes         |
| Porbeagle     | Yes (rebuild in 100 yrs)     | No          |

# Need for Action

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- **Based on latest stock assessments, new management measures are needed because:**
  - Sandbar and dusky sharks are overfished with overfishing occurring
  - Porbeagle sharks are overfished
- **Timeframe: Final measures effective January 1, 2008**

# Current Commercial Management Measures

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- Quotas - split regionally with seasonal trimesters; adjusted annually based on over- and underharvests for same trimester & region
- Trip limits for LCS & landing requirements
- Authorized gears
- Vessel Limited Access Permits – directed and incidental & upgrading restrictions
- Vessel reporting & observer requirements
- Dealer permits, reporting, identification certification, & handling and release workshops
- Species complexes: LCS, SCS, pelagic sharks, prohibited species
- Mid-Atlantic shark closure

# Other Current Shark Management Measures

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## ➤ **Recreational Management Measures Include:**

- Retention limits
- Minimum sizes
- Authorized gears
- Landing requirements

## ➤ **Other Management Measures Include:**

- Display quotas and collection of sharks through exempted fishing permits, Display permits, and scientific research permits

# New Shark Management Measures

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- **Comments received during the October 2006 Advisory Panel and on Notice of Intent (November 7, 2006, 71 FR 65086) are summarized in the next few slides.**
- **Based in part on these comments and the stock assessments, NMFS has identified some potential issues and options. These are provided after the summary of comments.**

# **Comments Received on Stock Assessments**

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- The latest stock assessments may be flawed.**
- The average size used for dusky sharks in the stock assessment is questionable.**
- NMFS needs to reduce shark fishing mortality.**
- Based on the rest of the LCS stock assessment, NMFS should consider closing the LCS fishery in the South Atlantic.**



# **Comments Received on Future Management Measures**

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- NMFS should take the time to implement appropriate management measures; a one year timeframe may not be feasible.**
- We need a shark management plan that is more species specific.**
- NMFS needs to manage deepwater sharks.**
- NMFS needs to enforce the existing prohibition on landing dusky sharks.**
- Blacktip sharks should be placed in the SCS complex, and the LCS fishery should be closed.**

# Species Specific Comments

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- How many sandbar sharks will be discarded dead if the quota for sandbars is drastically reduced?
- In order to be economically viable, commercial shark fishermen need to be able to land sandbar sharks.
- Based on latest stock assessment, landings of sandbars sharks should be prohibited.
- Porbeagle sharks should be placed on the prohibited list; porbeagle sharks should be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

# **Comments Received on Buyback Programs, Data Collection, and Outreach**

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- NMFS should consider a buyback program for the shark industry.**
- The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is ineffective at describing recreational shark fisheries.**
- Quota monitoring, species identification, and compliance with HMS permitting requirements needs to be improved.**
- NMFS needs to improve outreach, especially when NMFS is informing individuals about upcoming public hearings.**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks**

**Options:**

## **Commercial fisheries**

- Reduce commercial LCS quota
- Create commercial species specific quotas
- Establish an Individual Fishing Quota system
- Put sandbar sharks on the prohibited list
- Put porbeagle sharks on the prohibited list
- Re-evaluate current commercial time/area closures and/or consider new time/area closures

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks**

**Options (continued):**

## **Commercial fisheries**

- **Gillnet endorsement (limit future gillnet effort)**
- **Commercial gear modifications (circle hook requirement, number of hooks, length of longline, gillnet length, mesh size)**
- **Reduce the number of commercial permits; change all directed catch limits to incidental catch limits**
- **Revise/eliminate trip limits for commercial**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks**

**Options (continued):**

## **Commercial fisheries**

- Establish a minimum size for commercial fishery**
- Establish a slot limit for the commercial fishery**
- Establish bycatch caps**
- Others?**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks**

**Options (continued):**

## **Recreational fisheries**

- Increase minimum size for recreational fishery**
- Establish a slot limit for recreational fisheries**
- Increase/eliminate bag limit**
- Require circle hooks**
- Do not allow possession of sandbar sharks in the recreational fishery**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Rebuild sandbar, dusky, and porbeagle sharks**

**Options (continued):**

## **Recreational fisheries**

- Only allow recreational fishermen to possess sharks that can be positively identified**
- Create seasons and/or closed areas for the recreational fishery**
- Others?**



# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Provide a sustainable blacktip shark fishery**

**Options:**

- Create a separate blacktip shark fishery
- Add blacktip sharks to the SCS complex
- Create a prohibited species quota based on present discards; close the blacktip shark fishery once this quota has been reached
- Others?

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Manage additional species**

**Options:**

- **Manage deepwater sharks**
- **Manage smooth dogfish**
- **Others?**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Re-evaluate the exempted fishing program (scientific research permits, display permits, letters of acknowledgement, and exempted fishing permits)**

## **Options:**

- **Modify the 60 mt dw set aside for public display and research**
- **Restrict the number of sandbar sharks and other overfished species allocated for these types of permits**
- **Restrict the number of prohibited species allocated for these types of permits**
- **Others?**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Increase compliance with HMS regulations and improve Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reporting and dealer reporting**

## **Options:**

- Establish electronic dealer reporting
- Establish electronic vessel reporting
- Modify dealer reporting time
- Increase VMS transmission frequency; add hail-in & hail-out requirements
- Others?

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Improve flexibility for fishermen**

**Options:**

- **Adjust/eliminate trip limits**
- **Adjust/eliminate vessel upgrading restrictions**
- **Others?**

# Issues and Options

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**Issue: Improve agency's ability to monitor and implement appropriate quotas**

**Options:**

- **Modify/remove regions; modify/remove trimesters**
- **Stagger “seasons” between regions**
- **Adjust the SCS quota among regions**
- **Modify how overharvests are compensated for; reduce quota in next season, not next year, same season**
- **Cap the amount of underharvest that can be carried over**
- **Others?**

# Issues and Options

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**Any additional comments and/or issues and options?**

**Feel free to provide comments on such things as:**

- Safe handling, release, and identification workshops**
- Shark identification workshops**
- Others?**

# Scoping Meetings

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- **Wednesday, January 17, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Northeast Regional Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930**
- **Thursday, January 18, 2007, 6-9 p.m. City of Madeira Beach, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708**
- **Thursday, January 18, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Manahawkin Public Library, 129 North Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ 08050**
- **Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Avenue, Destin, FL 32541**
- **Thursday, January 25, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Bayou Black Recreational Center, 3688 Southdown Mandalay Road, Houma, LA 70360**
- **Tuesday, January 30, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Fort Pierce Library, 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, FL 34950**
- **Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 6-9 p.m. Manteo Town Hall, 407 Budleigh Street, Manteo, NC 27954**



# Tentative Timeline

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- **Scoping** – ~January 2006
- **Predraft** – ~March/April 2007 (AP meeting)
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Rule:** Summer 2007, 60 day comment period
- **Final EIS:** Late Fall 2007
- **Final Rule:** Late Fall/Early Winter 2007; **Effective** Jan. 1, 2008
- **Send Comments by 5pm February 5, 2007:**
  - Michael Clark, HMS Management Division, F/SF1, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 – indicate “Scoping Comments on Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP” on envelope
  - SF1.082906A@noaa.gov
  - FAX: 301-713-1917 - indicate “Scoping Comments on Amendment 2 to the HMS FMP”